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TECHNICAL NOTE

FOREST INSECTS AND DISEASES IN KOUCHIBOUGUAC NATIONAL PARK IN 1990

Personnel of the Forest Insect and Disease Survey regularly monitor national parks for forest insect and disease conditions. Some of the conditions encountered in the Park in 1990 are discussed briefly below.

SPRUCE BUDWORM has been a major pest of spruce and fir in the Park in past years, however, in 1990 no defoliation was observed.

STILLWELL'S SYNDROME, a condition of balsam fir and to a lesser extent spruce, occurs when trees, usually with a fair complement of foliage, despite having been exposed to varying amounts of defoliation by the spruce budworm for several years in the past, turn bright red and die. A few balsam fir and spruce trees with Stillwell's Syndrome were present throughout the Park.

DUTCH ELM DISEASE is a disease that develops in the sap-conducting vessels. The vessels become plugged and a toxin is produced that kills the cells of the trees. In the Park, along the Black River, newly infected elms were present and infection remained active in numerous mature and semi-mature elms.

WHITE PINE WEEVIL is a native insect and occurs throughout the range of eastern white pine. Economically, it is perhaps the most serious insect pest of eastern white pine as trees that have been attacked repeatedly are often worthless for lumber. Forty-eight percent of white pine trees were infested in an open field at Black River.

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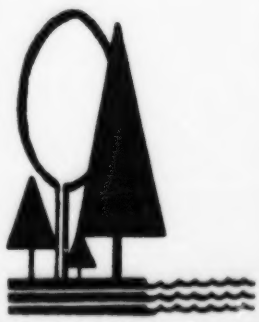

Forestry Canada - Maritimes Region
P.O. Box 4000, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5P7
P.O. Box 667, Truro, N.S. B2N 5E5
P.O. Box 190, Charlottetown, P.E.I. C1A 7K2

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BIRCH LEAFMINER is a perennial pest in the Maritimes, preferring wire birch but also commonly found on white birch. Leaves on severely infested trees turn completely brown. Wire birch showed light to moderate leaf damage around the parking lot and surrounding areas at Kelly Beach.

POPLAR SERPENTINE LEAFMINER is an insect that is recognizable by its zig-zag pattern of damage. Affected leaves take on a silverish gray hue when populations are high, and affected stands have a silvery appearance. Light to moderate damage on trembling aspen trees was evident along Rte. 117.

HYPOXYLON CANKER usually develops around wounds or branch stubs on the stem and branches. It is present in most aspen stands and it is not unusual to observe three to five trembling aspen trees either killed or dying back at any one location in the Park.

TAR SPOT OF MAPLE, light yellow-green areas appear on the leaves in early to mid-summer. Later, these areas become shiny-black, thickened, and raised, resembling tar spots on the leaf. Light damage was present on red maple foliage at Park Headquarters.

GYPSY MOTH is a major pest of forest and shade trees in southern Ontario, southern Quebec, the northeastern United States, southwestern New Brunswick, and western Nova Scotia. In Kouchibouguac National Park, the adult pheromone trapping program continued in 1990. Twenty-five traps were placed throughout the Park with the asistance of Park staff. No male moths were trapped and no other life stages were found. Visitors are requested to report any suspected gypsy moth to Park personnel.

UGLYNEST CATERPILLAR is an insect that feeds mostly on chokecherry and black cherry. The larvae tie the leaves together, thus forming a nest or web within which they live and feed. Many nests were present in open fields at The Pines and Shipyard Point.

PORCUPINES, which feed on bark sometimes girdling trees, caused mortality of jack pine and balsam fir at Callanders Beach and Black River.

J.R. Cormier
Forest Insect and Disease Survey

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